

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the detailed examination evidenced by the Office Action mailed October 8, 2004 (hereinafter "Office Action"), the allowance of Claims 9-20 and the indication that Claims 2-8 and 22-32 recite allowable subject matter. Based on this indication of allowability, Applicant has rewritten Claim 22 in independent form, explicitly incorporating the recitations of Claim 21, has canceled Claim 21, and has amended Claims 25 and 30 to depend from Claim 22, thus obviating the rejection of Claim 21 and placing Claims 22-31 in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. Applicant has also rewritten Claim 2 in independent form, explicitly incorporating the recitations of Claim 1, thus placing Claims 2 and 3 in condition for allowance. Applicant has further submitted proposed replacement drawing sheets that include the "Prior Art" legends for FIGs. 1 and 2 as required in the Office Action, and has amended Claim 9 to correct a minor typographical error.

Regarding the rejection of Claim 1, Applicant has amended Claim 1 to recite:

A memory device comprising:

a memory cell array comprising a plurality of memory cells and cell select circuitry configured to selectively connect the plurality of memory cells to a data line;
a bias circuit operative to charge the data line to a bias voltage responsive to a bias enable signal; and

a sense amplifier circuit having an input coupled to the data line and including an output buffer **configured to be enabled and disabled responsive to a sense amplifier enable signal**, the sense amplifier circuit operative to drive the output buffer according to a voltage on the data line responsive to the sense enable signal to thereby generate a sense amplifier output signal indicative of a state of a memory cell connected to the data line.

Applicant submits that the recitations of amended Claim 1 are neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited U.S. Patent No. 5,757,809 to Kiso et al. ("Kiso").

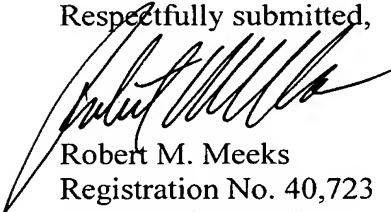
The Office Action alleges that the output buffer B_{out} of FIG. 3 of Kiso corresponds to the recited output buffer of Claim 1. *Office Action*, p. 3. However, referring to FIG. 4 of Kiso, which illustrates the output buffer B_{out} in detail, the output buffer B_{out} does not appear to be "**configured to be enabled and disabled responsive to a sense amplifier enable signal**," as recited in amended Claim 1. In particular, the output buffer B_{out} appears to have no capacity to be "disabled" and to lack any provision for an "enable signal." For at least these reasons, Applicant submits that Kiso does not disclose or suggest the recitations of amended

Claim 1 and that amended Claim 1 is, therefore, patentable. Applicant further submits that dependent Claims 4-8 are patentable at least by virtue of depending from patentable Claim 1, and that several of these dependent claims have independent bases for patentability as indicated in the Office Action.

Conclusion

Applicant submits that the claims are now in condition for allowance for at least the foregoing reasons, and respectfully requests allowance of the claims and passing of the application to issue. Applicant encourages the Examiner to contact the undersigned by telephone to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on January 4, 2005.


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